Fall 2015

Impressions

WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY • NEWSLETTER

MoMS Gets More than a Facelift

In addition to the scraping, priming and restorative painting, all exterior storm windows are being removed, painted, cleaned and re-hung.

If this house is 180 years old, can you imagine how old the wood is that the house was built from?

These exterior boards have recently weathered some cold, snowy and rainy seasons. The effects were evident this spring and summer – it was time to paint. Weather permitting, the job is being done by Copenhaver Painting and the progressive results are beautiful.

Preserving MoMS (The Museum on Main Street) and interpreting local history through exhibits there, fulfills the WCHS mission "to educate and inspire our community to engage in the preservation and presentation of area history". (Continued on page 11)

The Greiner family, whose descendants lived in this house for more than 100 years, have connections to the lilacs and quince that bloom in the garden today, see page 6.

"History Unlocked" Opens November 29th

The next exhibit at the Museum on Main Street has the keys to unlock the mysteries of early Washtenaw County life. Vibrant displays from several members of the Washtenaw County Historical Consortium will reveal their individual origin and attractions.

The Consortium is an informal group of historical organizations and agencies formed in 2001 to share ideas, information and promote local sites. This new exhibit opens on Thanksgiving Sunday, November 29, 2015, 12 Noon-4PM. You are invited to come and bring a friend!

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Cover Photo: Bentley Historical Library. The interior of the 1886 depot, built for the Michigan Central Railroad, now the Gandy Dancer restaurant. Advertised to be within walking distance of the fields of Gladiolus blooms on Greiners Farm.

WCHS

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Impressions
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A Message from the President

The Washtenaw County Historical Society traces its history back to the winter of 1857-1858, when a "county convention" of citizens who were "anxious that the history of Washtenaw County may be transmitted to those who may come after us" met to form a permanent society "to collect and preserve the history of the first settlement and growth of Washtenaw County, and to publish the same from time to time . . . ." A constitution was drafted and adopted. Each township in the county was encouraged to form a society to collect, preserve, and publish its own history. Although time brought some changes to the county historical society, its mission remained substantially the same over the decades, and thousands of residents of the county have been members of the society or have supported it and its mission in a wide variety of ways. That support continues to the present day.

During the mid-1800s and later, Old Settler Societies and county historical societies sprang up in the vast region from the Appalachians to the Great Plains and throughout much of the South. The frontier in many places in this region was drawing to a close, the last pieces of good land being settled, the last stands of virgin timber being felled, and the last burst of county formation occurring. Settlers and others throughout this vast region realized that a significant era in their lives and in the nation's life was fading; they realized the frontier was pushing west, lapping onto the eastern Great Plains, springing onto the High Plains and into the Great Basin, and flourishing on the West Coast.

Members of settlers' societies and county historical societies sought to preserve and transmit their understandings of the history they had experienced and which they knew was fading.

We are indebted to these people for recognizing the value of preserving their histories and the history of their regions and the nation. We can honor their efforts and their lives by doing what we can to preserve the history of our era. We can save letters we send and receive, family and business records, school and military records, diaries and journals, photos and other images, materials from churches and other social organizations, commonplace tools and other household artifacts, and other items of historical and cultural significance. And we can encourage members of our families, friends, and colleagues to do the same. We can give local and regional historical societies and museums "first rights of rejection" of such records and artifacts, and if these societies cannot accept all of what we wish to donate, they can often steer us toward societies and museums that would welcome such donations. The internet offers a plethora of societies and museums that eagerly accept materials local societies are not be able to accept. Each one of us in our individual lives and as members of families, social organizations, and public institutions can join those who lived in the 1800s and later to collect, preserve, and publish history. We can join them in making a historical difference.

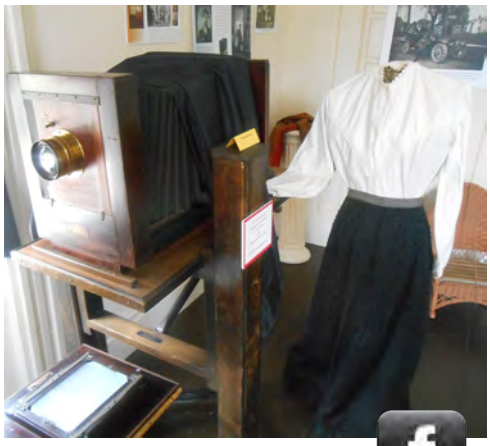
James Davis, President

Washtenaw County Historical Society
P.O. Box 3336 • Ann Arbor, MI 48106-3336
734-662-9092 **wchs-500@ameritech.net**

Museum on Main Street
500 N. Main St • Ann Arbor, MI 48104-1027
(at the corner of Beakes & E. Kingsley)

HOURS Saturday & Sunday, 12 Noon – 4:00 PM
and by appointment Monday-Friday
Groups are welcome, Call 734-662-9092

Current Exhibit: Capturing the County:The Art & Business of Early Photography (closes Nov.1)



WashtenawHistory.org

A Sunday Afternoon Talk at Historic St. Andrews Episcopal Church

On Sunday September 20th, sunlight streamed through the stained glass windows of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church on N. Division Street in Ann Arbor. More than 60 people came to hear Dr. Mark Hildebrandt talk about the book "A History of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Part II," and get a tour of the nave. The presentation was more like a conversation with friends, funny and informative at the same time. We learned about the physical history of the building and lineage of rectors to the focus on community outreach and inclusion. One of the most enduring legacies of St. Andrew's are the free breakfast program and providing shelter for the homeless.

The first "History of St. Andrew's Church" was written by Professor Arthur Lyon Cross covering the first 75 years of the Church and published in 1906. "A History of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Part II," takes up where Part I ends, and was created by members of the History and Memorials Committee. Contributors include H. M. Hildebrandt, editor, John Lapp, copy editor, Alice Sano Teachout, James Wessel Walker, Katherine Cox, the Reverend Deacon Svea Gray, the Reverend Lewis Towler, Virginia Burckhalter, Ann, Garvin, Elizabeth Neidhardt, Rohn Federbush and Nancy Heusel.

H. Mark Hildebrant is a long-time member and serves as the church historian. His Powerpoint show included images of artifacts, documents and photographs.

Historical facts were interspersed with stories, anecdotes and personal recollections. He told us of his own connection from singing in the boys choir to having been married there – all four times.

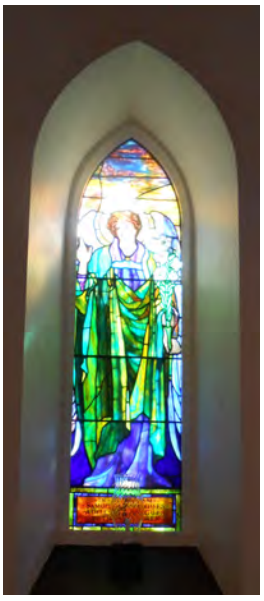
The church itself is a blend of art and history. What started in 1827 in a neighborhood house (three years after Ann Arbor was founded) became the second Episcopal Church in the state of Michigan. Its first meeting was at the home of Hannah Gibbs Clark, a widow who lived on the northwest corner of Ashley and Liberty. The congregation dedicated its first building, at Division and Lawrence in 1839. The wooden church was built amongst burr oak trees, just like the tree outside today.

It is also the oldest operating church in Ann Arbor. As the first Episcopalian church, members of St. Andrew's founded the city's other Episcopalian congregations through the years. These include St. Clare's, Episcopal, St. Aidan's and Canterbury House

The current church was built between 1867 and 1869. It was designed by Gordon W. Lloyd, the preeminent architect of Gothic Revival churches and cathedrals in the Midwest in the 1860s and 1870s.

From the nave to the chapel to the bell tower, St. Andrew's grew in size. The St. Andrew's Palmer Tower bell was given to the church by Richard's parents in memory of their son, Richard Nelville Hall, of the American Ambulance Service, who was killed on the hills of Alsace early Christmas morning in 1915. As far as it is known he was the first American to die in this work during World War I.

From an exterior made of stones, a nave and chapel surrounded with stained glass windows, the Pewabic tiles and walnut and butternut pews, this church is a living piece of history. Six rows from the back, a brass plate affixed to a pew reads: "Edmund Erskine Brady, Student Pew, 1869." Original pews are unchanged with the dividers that once separated one family's rented section from another's. Many of the windows are also personalized memorials to church members. The angel pictured here is believed to be the work of Louis Comfort Tiffany.



Questions and answers and a walk around the nave and chapel followed the talk. The afternoon ended with a speaker meet & greet and book signings. You can get your copy at the Museum on Main Street gift shop. We also carry "The Windows of St. Andrew's" written by Mark in 2001. Color photographs accompany text on the history and memorials of the stained glass at St. Andrew's.

See page 11 for the November and December programs, and a preview of Spring 2016. If you have suggestions for programs you would like to see, send them to WCHS-500@ameritech.net

Memories

Wystan Stevens:

Why He Was So Good At What He Loved

by Dale R. Leslie

Ann Arbor Historian Wystan Stevens offers a few humorous anecdotes about Ann Arbor during his guided tour through Forest Hill Cemetery Sunday afternoon in 1993. (Ann Arbor News file photo) Wystan at the tombstone of watchmaker Don J. Mozart. The WCHS has one in our collection, see page 5.

People are right: a lot of the talent was natural. But puzzle pieces of his personal background, explain a lot about Wystan Stevens, the renowned community historian. Wystan passed away on July 26, 2015, at the age of 72.

1. He was a Townie from the get-go. Born in Ann Arbor, Wystan matriculated Burns Park Elementary School, Tappan Middle School, Ann Arbor High School and the University of Michigan. His entire educational career was harvested and stored from inside the Ann Arbor expressway beltway.

2. Wystan Auden Stevens was named for the highly respected English poet-playwright W.H. Auden. Auden spent a semester teaching at the U-M and was befriended by the senior Stevens (U-M professor A.K. Stevens). Wystan said on one visit to the Auden home his parents were greeted by W.H. dressed in "drag."

3. Wystan was a voracious reader and mastered the art of "information recall." He invested hours in reviewing old print publications and the microfilm in the Ann Arbor District Library archive. For a period, he sold books and picture postcards on the corner of S. State Street and North University. Later, he carried an arm-full of books from the "freebie" cart at the Ann Arbor District Library. He distributed some to his friends.

4. *Northfield Harvest: A Pictorial History of Northfield Township and the Whitmore Lake Area*, was edited by Stevens in 1999 for the Northfield Township Historical Society and remains an excellent primer for the authors and editors considering a similar publication.

5. He blended well with the diverse Ann Arbor townspeople regardless of societal level and their type of employment. At Washtenaw Dairy, Wystan shared a donut with a former Ford executive, a retired U-M coach, past retailers and attorneys, outdoorsmen, males and females, and newbies and could chat and laugh with the best. His smile was contagious. This I remember.

Wystan's Wanderings at **washtenawhistory.org**

Wystan Stevens shared some of his history work on our website under "Wystan's Wanderings". He also built a virtual archive of Michigan memories with descriptions, comments and threads of conversation. Some images he captured as they came up on auction sites and shared them on his Flickr page. Wystan's collection of over 9,000 online images of letters, documents, artifacts and photographs, including the Octagon House, is at **flickr.com/photos/70251312@N00**

This comment was added by Wystan: "The Octagon House, photographed here in June, 1904, was built in 1858 by University of Michigan Geology Prof. Alexander Winchell (1824-1891) on North University Ave. Purchased by the University after Winchell's death in 1891, it was rented to student groups for several years, and demolished for construction of Hill Auditorium".

Collections

Don J. Mozart and The Mozart Watch

Don J. Mozart was known as the designer of one of the best, if not the best, American watches ever made.

According to Mozart enthusiast Jon Hanson, Mozart's father was an Italian watchmaker who immigrated with his family to Boston MA in 1823 where he continued with his trade. Don was mysteriously kidnapped to sea at the age of nine, spent three years at sea before he finally escaped from the ship, and eventually found his way back to the US. He searched for his parents in the eastern United States and Italy, but never found them.

Mozart found himself in the same line of work as his father. He invented a clock, that failed, but attracted investors. Mozart modified his clock design into a three-wheel watch which was a cross between a lever and a chronometer and founded the Mozart Watch Co., in Providence RI in 1864.

Things didn't work out for him and in 1866, after just two years, there was a partner disagrement and Donald left the Mozart Watch Company.

He moved to Ann Arbor and set up another Mozart watch company in 1867 but it failed too. It is believed that 10 watches were originally assembled and cased by Mozart and his partner Ernest Sandoz; another 20 were finished and cased by employees. The factory was destroyed by fire in October 1875.

The final year of Mozart's life was consumed with business failures and worries and his highly creative mind reached a breaking point in December 1876, at age 57. He died in 1877.

Source: "A Wrecked Genius," The New York Times, published 12 Jan 1875; The Detroit Tribune, 9 Jan 1875; Jon Hanson

"With its self-compensating level, the watch had no stopping place, thus once wound up, it is bound to run until it runs down... Screw the same (watch) to the side of a locomotive, and it will run with the most perfect regularity"

From Wystans Wanderings

In May 2010, Wystan Stevens transcribed Mozart's obituary that appeared in the Ann Arbor Courier on March 16, 1877. He added this comment:

"The editor of the Courier when the above was written was Rice A. Beal, who must have been well acquainted with Mozart, since the inventor's office/workshop, when he was sane and building watches, was located in Beal's building, the former Dr. Chase's Steam Printing House, at the NW corner of Main and Miller. The graves of both Beal and Mozart are in Forest Hill Cemetery, not far apart. I pause at both when leading history tours there. (Dr. Chase is buried there, too.) About forty years ago, I was told by a member of the Washtenaw County Historical Society that the Society owned one of the rare Mozart watches, and kept it in a safety deposit box at a bank in downtown Ann Arbor. I hope that that is true. I would like to see it sometime, and get a photograph of it." A photograph of that watch is above.

Thank You for Your Recent Donations

The WCHS collects artifacts that relate to the history and culture of Washtenaw County. We welcome inquiries and donations. If you have artifacts to donate, send an e-mail to **judychr@aol.com** or call Judy Chrisman at 734-662-9092.

1. Receipt, Polhemus Transfer Line, March, 1902, for use of horse to and from school for a month—from Louis & Carol MeKush, Sarasota FL
2. Several photos and certificates—from Julie Wheatley
3. 2 small logging sleds found in basement of 538 N. Main—from Tom Carlson
4. Ypsilanti High School Yearbook, 1920, 2 campaign buttons , 1 pin button "Welcome Home Lt. Chas. Lindbergh—from Tom Freeman
5. Horse hair blanket made from hide of horse belonging to Minnie Galpin Blue and white jacquard quilt, belonged to Mary R. Galpin –from Karen and Bill Judson
6. Painted metal panel , c1958, designed by Alden Dow, removed from Library during current remodel—from Ann Arbor District Library
7. Photos, certificates, school work from a Wall Street family and photos of houses being moved from Wall Street –from Brenda Hawkins

Charles Greiner and family have moved from Wall street to their new home on the Pontiac road.

Ann Arbor Times News – December 16, 1910

MANY VISIT FIELDS OF GLADIOLUS BLOOMS

Hundreds of people are daily visiting the display of gladiolus blooms at the "Gladfield" gardens of Meader & Muyskens on the Greiner farm, Pontiac road, one-fourth mile north of the city limits. The flowers are much admired, especially the choice varieties such as the stately "Favorite," the massive red "Spike of War," the delicate shades of "Nightingale," the pure white, sulphur-tinted "Mary Pickford," the brilliant, scarlet amarillas-like "Princeps" and dozens of other ruffled and plain petaled varieties. Visitors are welcomed every afternoon and evening. Attendants are always there to explain the flowers. The gardens are within easy walking distance of the street car at the Michigan Central depot.

Ann Arbor Times News – August 8, 1922

Preserving History and Horticulture – A Gardener's Touch

According to local historian Susan Wineberg, the Kellogg-Warden house pictured above, now home of the Museum on Main Street, was once a private residence in the section of Ann Arbor known as Lower Town. This is how the Museum looked around 1900 when It stood at 1015 Wall Street. Mrs. Charles Greiner, Katherine and her six daughters-Louise, Lillie, Mabel, Laura, Frieda and Ella and the family dog pose In front. The photograph belonged to Louise Greiner Ely's son, William Ely Jr. and was donated to the WCHS by Ely's daughter, Harriett L. Rash.

Building began in 1835 by the Kellogg family and brother-in-law and partner, Ethan Warden, two years before Michigan became a state in 1837, and completed in 1839. The house stood empty after Charles Kelloggs death in 1843 until the Ruthruff family purchased it in 1853 and occupied it for three decades. In the early 1890s it became the property of gardener Charles Greiner and his family, In 1901, they wrote their names on the door to the attic stairs. Family descendants would live in this house for the next 100 years.

Greiner Blooms on Pontiac Road

In 1910 Charles took his gardening to the next level when he moved from 1015 Wall Street to Pontiac Road, 1/4 mile north of the city limits. He operated a farm and sold flowers and bulbs grown by University of Michigan professors Clarence L. Meader and John H. Muyskens. In August 1922, the two men invited the public to come see 13 miles of gladiolus plants they raised in Gladfield Gardens, section of Greiners farm

(Continued next page)

Gladioli Show

Flowers and Bulbs

Grown by MEADER & MUYSKENS

Select your bulbs now from over 200 varieties of blossoms; all sizes, forms and colors.

Bulbs Delivered in the Fall

Visitors are welcome every afternoon and evening.

"GLADFIELD" GARDENS

On the Greiner Farm, Pontiac Road, one-fourth mile north of the city limits. Within easy walking distance of the street car at the Michigan Central Depot.

Ann Arbor Times News – April 26, 1922

25 Years at the Corner of E. Kingsley & Beakes

In 1989 the Washtenaw County Historical Society saved the house from demolition, and moved it to its present site. The City of Ann Arbor provided the land, the U-M donated the building and some funds for moving it. The garden and grounds continue to bloom with some of the original plants from Wall Street. They have provided a beautiful, colorful and fragrant setting for the house to interpret the County's heritage.

The Kellogg-Warden House at its new home on Main Street, June 10, 1990

Established in 1857, the Washtenaw County Historical Society is the oldest local group of its kind in the state. When this house was moved, it marked the first time in the organization's history that the society had a permanent home. The journey was made possible with the help and support of our members, donors and volunteers. We count on your donations to the Endowment Fund to secure its present and future care.

Who Were Professors Meader & Muyskens?

Clarence L. Meader
1868 – 1967

John Henry Muyskens
1887-1957

According to the UM Faculty History Project, Michigan was the first University to develop the field of General Linguistics. Clarence Meader (Professor of Latin, Sanskrit, and General Linguistics) had been the leader in this work since its inception in 1902. John H. Muyskens was the first Professor of Phonetics at the University of Michigan. Muyskens and Meader worked together for over thirty years on the study of the physiology of normal and pathological speech and developed a new approach to speech rehabilitation, naming their science "Biolinguistics". They recognized that speech disorders would be helped with a therapy based on physiology and biochemistry. *The Handbook of Bio-linguistics was published* in 1950 and became a standard reference in schools and libraries all over the world. They were also partners in their love of nature.

In 1921, the gardens of C. L. Meader and J. H. Myskens attracted hundreds of visitors. There were over 300,000 plants, practically all in bloom and over 200 of the top varieties including some that were very rare. An article in the Ann Arbor Times News described the location: "The gardens were at the end of the street car line or better still at the turn from Washtenaw Avenue onto Hill Street. From that point, one walks to the entrance to the Hoover Estate and turns in on the bye-road between the two stone posts." That year the professors announced their plans to plant 7-8 acres of gladioli and make a start at tulip growing on the Greiner farm in 1922. An article in the May 1933 issue of the Michigan Alumnus stated that "Meader keeps trim for his academic work on a twenty-acre farm on Pontiac where flowers vie with vegetables for his interest".

The Garden

In addition to bringing along as many of the native plants surrounding the house when it was moved, other era-appropriate bulbs, plants, bushes and trees were planted. Master Gardener, Lilly Ferguson volunteers the upkeep and beautification.

The Bike Rack Path

The rack was put in by WCHS director at large, Bob Yuhasz. Museum docent John Kilar finished the pathway with bricks that were recovered from Hiscock street when the city repaved it.

The Sundial

The UM Alva Sink Alumnae Group has donated a sundial in memory of Pauline Walters. It will be placed in the garden on the south side of the house.

Interurban Rail History

Ann Arbor's first streetcar track was laid in the summer of 1890. With the help of Andy Chapman of O'Neal Construction and Latvala Brothers, two six-foot sections from Huron and Main Street were recovered for our museum and placed in the garden.

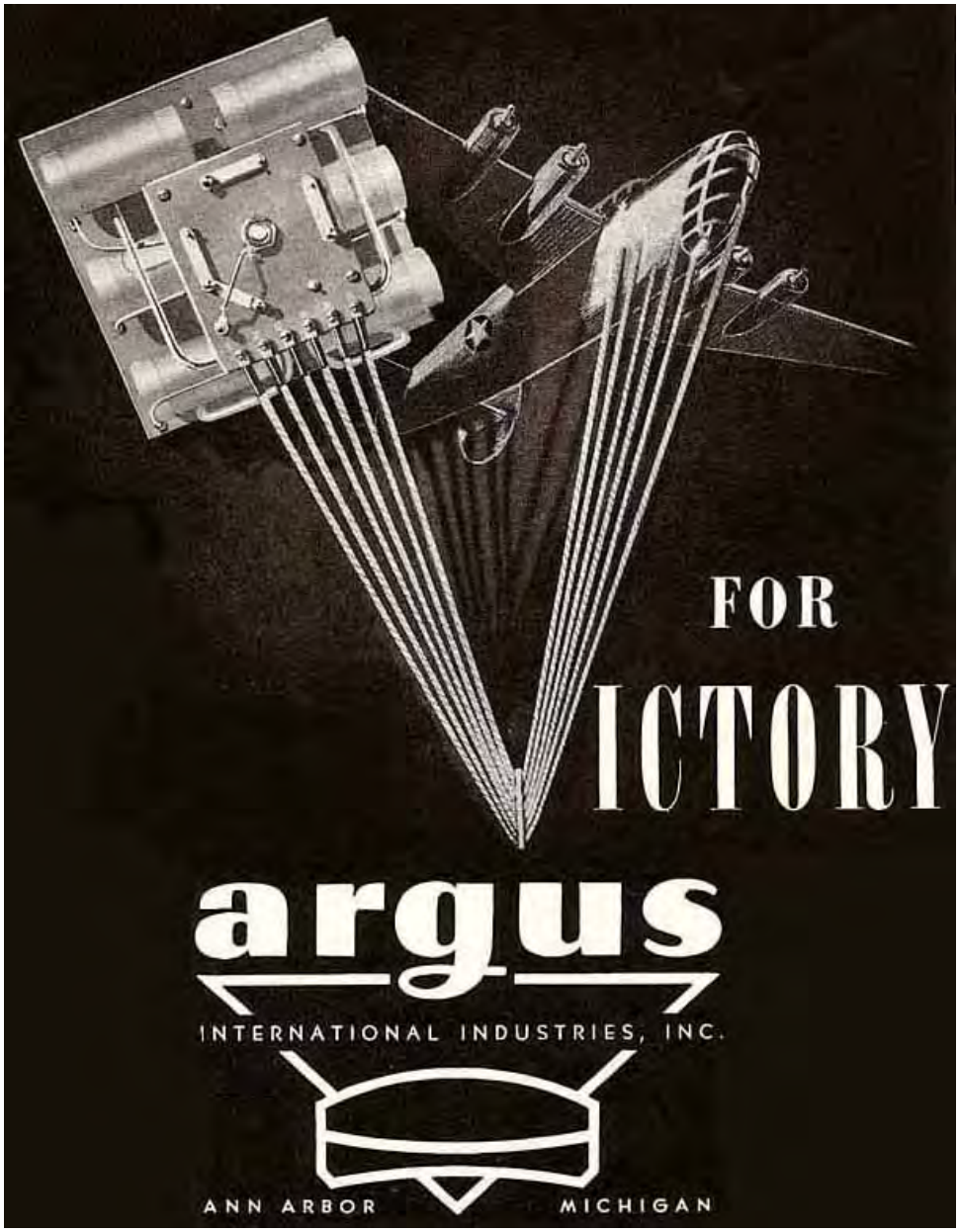
The 2015 Argus Collectors Group Argus Museum Ann Arbor Fall Conference

By Cheryl A. Chidester

This year's Argus Collectors Group (ACG)/Argus Museum Ann Arbor Fall Conference is being held October 22-25. It is developing into an exciting event! Each year, the conference brings Argus collectors, photographers and historians from across the country and Canada to Ann Arbor. Presentations, displays, demonstrations, a photography exhibition, field trips, good food and camaraderie are enjoyed by all who attend.

The conference begins on Thursday evening, with the opening reception of the photography exhibition, Alchemy, images by the Renegades with an Argus Group (RWAG) and Renegades with Alternative Processes (RWAP). This exhibit will visually discuss how photography has been used from its invention through the 21st century to explore the world that lies outside the visible. These groups have previously exhibited at the museum and their quality of their work has been appreciated and well-received (and their openings entertaining!) The preview of the Reitsma/Buckley collection of wartime radio production will be available for viewing in space adjacent to the Argus Museum; the space is generously on loan from Wisely.

The Museum on Main Street will have expanded hours on Friday afternoon from1-3:30 pm to give conference attendees an opportunity to enjoy the current exhibit, *Capturing Washtenaw County; the Art & Business of Early Photography.* 500 N. Main St, at the corner of E. Kingsley & Beakes Street.



Argus Plant 1 in World War II

Friday's evening begins with the ACG-sponsored dinner in the main lobby of the Argus I Building (no charge – donations accepted). Dinner is followed by an intriguing presentation: Argus Plant 1 in WW2. ACG members, Mike Reitsma and Pam Buckley, will discuss the little-known topic of Argus war-time radio equipment.

During WWII Argus was one of thousands of American companies that converted their assembly lines to supply the War Department. Argus's wartime optical production was shown in detail in the movie Argus Eyes for Victory (1945), but its wartime radio production - almost entirely military avionics - was documented only in a few pages of poorly captioned photos in a 1946 shareholder report.

The talk and the companion exhibit will present the results of 3 years of research into the identities of the devices shown in the 1946 report. It includes examples of many of the devices, parts of the avionics systems in which they were used, wartime technical documents, and accounts of the wartime missions of Argus-made products.

(Continued next page)

458th Bomb Group during World War II. Crew 22 - Assigned 753rd Squadron - October 7, 1944 Standing: Bob Levy - N, Bob Swift - B, John Woodford - CP, Wilfred Tooman - P. Kneeling: Raymond Wilson - RO, Victor Oullette - BTG, Orlando Sanchez - WG, Julius Valenzano - WG, James Fryer - TT/E, Ervin Karrels - TG

The large display of related artifacts that Mike and Pam have collected during their years of research is available for viewing by conference attendees, including a BC-1158 transmitter on loan from a collector in Iceland!

Saturday morning begins with coffee and snacks at 9 am with the first presentation beginning at 9:30. RWAG and RWAP members, including Mary Buchanan, Jessica Burton and Deborah Kingery (also on the WCHS board) will discuss their photography work. Afterwards, the Argus Museum curator will give a brief museum update.

The next presentation is sure to be a crowd-pleaser. Former Argus employee, Brigadier General Richard (Dick) DeMara will be presenting an actual slide presentation, Building of the Mackinac Bridge. Dick was born in Detroit in 1929 and graduated from Cheboygan High School in 1947. He worked at the Argus Cheboygan facility, 1949-1956, creating cases before joining the Mackinac Bridge construction crew as an iron worker. Using his Argus C3 camera, he recorded the construction of the bridge. Dick, whose job was to verify that each cable being spun was in precisely the proper position, will reminisce with memories of tugboat rides out to the bridge piers, followed by a long climb up the catwalks to begin each day at work. Dick will generously donate his C3 camera, along with the camera case he personally constructed, to the Argus Museum.

Richard DeMara is shown in a 1950s picture taken during his work on the construction of the Mackinac Bridge. Source: MLive

Lunch and a round-table discussion will be held from 12:30-2. Former Argus employees and their families are encouraged to participate. There is no charge for the luncheon, however donations are accepted.

Two field trips are scheduled for the afternoon – interesting venues that will offer good photo opportunities for conference attendees. We will first be visiting the Ypsilanti Automobile Heritage Museum (they are waving the $5.00 admission fee – donations accepted), followed by the Michigan Firehouse Museum. (The Firehouse Museum is extending their hours to accommodate the group.)

Saturday's Banquet will be held at Haab's Restaurant. The Banquet will include awards and a silent auction. Haab's, who will be celebrating their 81st birthday in October, has a long and respected history and has served meals to generations of Washtenaw County residents.

On Sunday the group will gather at the Michigan Photographic Historical Society's 40th Photographica Show & Sale being held at the Royal Oak Elks Lodge. Booths displaying vintage photography equipment, photographs, postcard and ephemera fill the room. Each year, the Michigan Photographic Historical Society generously donates the use of a table at their event to the Argus Museum to promote the museum and educate attendees.

REGISTER NOW!
Please contact the Argus Curator, Cheryl Chidester: cchidester@onealconstruction.com or 734-769-0770. Registration is required for the luncheon, field trips and banquet; registration requested for all other events.

Registration forms can be found at **washtenawhistory.org**

Digital History at Your Fingertips - There's an App for that!

How many times have you driven or walked by a familiar building and then one day, it's gone and you begin to wonder... what was there?

That happened more than once to people at Ann Arbor's Enlighten Ventures, LLC (Adam Kempa, Karen Ford, Laurel Erickson, Mike Gatto and Voratima Orawannukul and Joanne Smith) and they found a creative solution.

Co-founder Laurel Erickson said "What inspired this project was the realization that we could leverage technology and the connections it facilitates to provide a new human experience of time and space – a virtual time machine of sorts that would allow users to navigate familiar streets as they appeared in the past. "

WhatWasThere.com is an interactive website that provides the virtual space to capture the history of everyday places before that history disappears and is no longer available. It provides a user-friendly platform where people can easily upload a photograph with two straightforward tags to provide context: location and year. It was voted one of the six best time capsules by *Popular Mechanics* in 2014.

Your iPhone, iPad or iPod Touch is a digital portal into the past.

Whatwasthere.com allows users to view historic photographs, plotted on a Google map, at or near their current location. If you're at a location where a historic photo was taken, enlarge the photo to use your camera and the on screen fader to transition between past and present. Launch the Info screen for more details about the picture.

The iPhone app is free. If you have any questions, issues or ideas contact Enlighten Ventures at feedback@whatwasthere.com.

414 N. Main Street – St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church, October 1939. Oldnews.aadl.org

414 N. Main Street – St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church was remodeled in 1992, photo taken 2006

414 N. Main Street is now Kingsley Condominiums, Summer 2015. The house on the left was built in 1920.

Preserving History at the Museum on Main Street, continued from page 1

This house is a rare survivor of the first decades of life in Ann Arbor with construction features that disappeared from use shortly after the 1830s. These include including accordion or split lathe backing for the plaster walls, very wide plank floors, and brick "nogging" (an early form of insulation) in the walls. Visitors can see these details when they come to the Museum.

The garden that blooms today has ties to the gardener who once lived here, read about that on page 6. The care and preservation of this architectural and historical landmark is in the hands of the Friends of History who have a connection to Washtenaw County. As you drive, ride or walk by watch the progress and see how your donations and memberships make it possible for this work to be done

Preservation enriches the quality of our life as a community. It gives future generations a chance for hands-on experience with the past and local history.

WCHS 2016 Membership Renewal

We count on your annual memberships and donations to support the work of The Society and the two museums we operate: The Museum on Main Street and the Argus Museum. Membership runs 1/1-12/31 and your contributions are very much appreciated.

Membership dues support

- Care for the collections
- Educational programs
- Community outreach

Membership Benefits

- Quarterly issues of *Impressions*
- Six or more educational programs
- Opportunities to volunteer and network with history lovers
- Discounts at the Gift Shop

3 WAYS TO JOIN OR RENEW

BY MAIL: Current members will receive renewal letters with return envelopes in early December.

ONLINE: You can renew or join anytime at **washtenawhistory.org**

IN PERSON: The Museum is open on Saturdays and Sundays from 12 Noon - 4pm when there is an exhibit.

We hope that you have been pleased enough with the quality of our exhibits, programs and work that you continue to belong. **washtenawhistory.org**

Fall Programs for Adults & Kids

WCHS members receive postcards and e-vites with program details. For information call 734-662-9092 or email wchs-500@ameritech.net

Sunday, November 15
2-4 PM

Michigan Theatre Tour & Talk

Opened in 1928, the rich and detailed history of this majestic theatre are vividly shared by Exec. Director & CEO, Russ Collins. **603 E. Liberty Street,** Ann Arbor, Between S. State & S. Division.

Sunday, December 6
3-4 PM

UMMA Tour & Talk

Dramatic new galleries highlight works drawn from the UM Museum of Art's collections of more than 18,000 artworks (representing over 150 years of collecting). Photos are permitted without a flash. Please reserve your space(s) by calling 734-662-9092 and leave a message or email wchs-500@ameritech.net 525 S.State Street, Ann Arbor. At the corner of S. University & S. State.

Family Fun at County Farm Park

Located at the southwest corner of Washtenaw Ave. and Platt Rd., Ann Arbor
Two Entrances: One off of Platt Rd. and one off of Medford Rd.

Sunday,November 1
1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

The Fall Harvest: Wild Nuts

Hike to learn how to identify wild trees with edible nuts, and then learn to crack and prepare wild nuts into delicious foods. **Platt Road lot.**

Thursday,November 19
10:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Toddler Hike: A Gruffalo Hunt

Ages 1-5. Hear the story "The Gruffalo" and then go on a hike to discover an underground house, a log pile house and a treetop house. **Medford Rd lot.** Pre-register at **parks.ewashtenaw.org**.

Non-profit
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Saturday, October 24
12 Noon – 4 PM

Hallow Harvest

Observe the season with this 1850's living history program celebrating the fun and the spooky. Meet costumed interpreters and visit the animals in the barnyard. Play traditional lawn games for children such as hoops and stilts. Tour the farmhouse and visit the gift shop. Admission: $2 adult, $1 kid, $1.50 Senior / $5 Family rate. Children 3 and under are free.

Cobblestone Farm
2781 Packard Rd., Ann Arbor, MI
734/794-7120

Sunday, October 25 1:30 PM

Michigan Roots: Genealogy Research in the Great Lakes State

Drawn by high-paying manufacturing jobs and inexpensive land, thousands of people from all over Europe and the United States, including the Deep South, New England, New York, and Pennsylvania, migrated to Michigan during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. This session, aimed at researchers whose ancestral trails extend to and from Michigan, will explore these migration patterns and provide an overview of the rich and abundant genealogical resources available in print and online. Presented by Kris Rzepczynski. He is an archivist at the Archives of Michigan in Lansing, with a special interest in genealogy and local history. Kris's 14+ years of experience has given him an interesting perspective on research, resources, and technological trends.

New York Research

Presented by a GSWC Member Panel at 3:30 pm

The Education Center Auditorium, St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Campus, 5305 Elliott Dr., Ypsilanti, MI **washtenawgenealogy.org**

Wednesday, October 28 7:30 PM

Crazy Line Survey of Salem Township

This Salem Area Historical Society will hold a short general membership meeting followed by a presentation from Greg Ash. He will talk about the original survey of Salem Township by Joseph Wampler, which occurred 200 years ago (August 7, 1815 to February 7, 1816). This survey did not contain the standard 6 mile by 6 mile township for Salem. Greg graduated from Ferris State University with a B.S. degree in Surveying Engineering and obtained his surveying license. He started his own company, GLA, in 1993-(currently GLA Surveyors & Engineers. The public is invited. **Jarvis Stone School,** 7991 North Territorial Road, Salem, MI. **sahsHistory.org**

Wednesday, Nov. 4
12 Noon – 1 PM

Early Ann Arbor Businesses

Art French, Long-time Ann Arbor "Townie", recalls details about early notable Ann Arbor businesses, their locations, and founders, as well as memories of early German civic organizations.

The Kempf House Museum
312 S. Division, Ann Arbor, MI
734-994-4898
kempfhousemuseum.org